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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,913	07/03/2003	Chang Kuei Tang	PO92172	5595
7590 01/24/2005 Yi-Wen Tseng 509 ROOSEVELT BLVD. #D306 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044			EXAMINER PHAM, MINH CHAU THI	
			ART UNIT 1724	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,913

Applicant(s)

TANG, CHANG KUEI

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-9 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pluta et al (6,354,344 B1), in view of Nohren, Jr. (6,200,471 B1).

Pluta et al disclose a filter apparatus (30) of a water dispenser (20) comprising a shell (113) with a plurality of water outlet apertures (see Fig. 4) formed on a bottom surface thereof allowing water flowing from the shell to an water inlet port of the water dispenser, a slot (90) recessed from a bottom portion thereof allowing a mouth of a water bottled to be inserted therein, and a plurality of water inlet apertures formed on the bottom of the slot allowing water flowing from the water bottle into the shell, and a filtering material (32a & 32b) disposed in the shell allowing water to be filtered before flowing into the water dispenser (20). Pluta et al further disclose the shell (113) including a top lid (80) and a bottom seat (36) attached to each other and the top lid is fixed on the bottom seat via thermal fusion (col. 6, lines 7-8), and the shell including threads formed on an interior edge of the slot allowing the filter apparatus to be threaded in the mouth of the water bottle (col. 10, lines 26-28). Claims 1-9 differ from the disclosure of Pluta et al in that the filter apparatus has a valve mounted at the inlet port of the shell. Nohren, Jr. discloses a valve (12) as a push-pull valve mounted at the inlet port of the shell that is movable between open and closed positions associated with the upper surface of the cap (11), or an intake valve (13) provided on the cap (11) for venting purpose. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art

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at the time the invention was made to provide a valve mounted on the shell as taught by Nohren, Jr. in the filter apparatus of Pluta et al since the valve would effectively control the water flow in and out of the filter apparatus.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on November 17, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the secondary reference "Nohren, Jr. does not disclose a valve mounted at the air inlet port of the shell". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Nohren, Jr. discloses a valve (12) which is movable between open and closed positioned associated with the upper surface of the cap (11) and the valve (12) may be a conventional push-pull valve, and the filter assembly (10) is typical self-venting, if it is not, or where additional venting is desired, the optional air intake valve (13) is provided in the cap (11) (see col. 3, line 60 through col. 4, line 1). Nohren, Jr. discloses that the filter assembly with the valve (12) is a self-venting device wherein the valve is self controlled movable to control the open and close positions by a push-pull action. Nohren, Jr. further discloses if additional venting is desired, an optional air intake valve (13) is provided, so basically Nohren, Jr. discloses that both valves (12 and 13) are air intake valves.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been thoroughly considered but are moot in view of rejection as discussed above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
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January 20, 2005